This year, Carolyn Zern took over the reins as the Chair of The Food Project’s Board of Trustees. Carolyn brings high level leadership skills, a can-do attitude, and deep dedication to our mission. Since joining the board in 2015, Carolyn has been on the Big Shindig Host Committee, captained our Ride for Food team, and served on both the Development and Finance subcommittees. Carolyn also led the 2018 Executive Director search committee.

The Food Project is also incredibly grateful for the leadership of Linda McQuillan, who recently stepped down as Board Chair after nearly six years. Linda chaired the Big Shindig for many years, served as Interim Executive Director in 2018, and has been a steadfast advocate and partner. Linda loves to volunteer on the Boston farms and in the greenhouse, and we are so appreciative of her years of service. Thank you, Linda!
Dear Friends of the Food Project,

When I came on board as Executive Director in January of this year, I thought that I knew what I was getting into. I’d been both a supporter of the organization and a parent of a youth participant – my eldest daughter spent her high school years on The Food Project’s farms. It changed her life, as it does for so many of our young people.

What I was not prepared for was the impact of seeing The Food Project from the inside: getting to know our passionate, mission-driven staff and Board of Trustees, spending time with our youth, hearing their stories and watching them grow. It’s seeing all the work that our farmers do before even one seedling goes into the ground and the mind-boggling logistics required to distribute our fresh healthy food to vulnerable families. I am honored and humbled to be leading this incredible organization.

I am truly thrilled to be a part of The Food Project. Our work with youth and communities brings people of diverse backgrounds together to learn, grow, and build a just and sustainable food system that is accessible to all. Having a safe space to dig deeply into issues of race and economic inequity and understand the impact of those factors on a personal level is so important if we hope to see lasting change.

With the support of all of you and the entire Food Project community, my team and I look forward to continuing to sow seeds, empower youth, and grow together.

Anne Hayes
Executive Director
How has your work changed since you began at The Food Project?

Well, transitioning from Seed Crew to Dirt Crew to a Root Crew peer leader position, the ask is always different. Initially I was just learning and absorbing all of these concepts that I was previously oblivious to. Now, I’m taking all of the skills I’ve developed over the years and applying them. The Food Project has helped make me a better public speaker and overall thinker. With the skills they’ve helped me find within myself, I have learned how to facilitate conversations around difficult topics.

What work during the academic year has been challenging?

For the academic year, I would say trying to be super creative is the most challenging to me. Being in Root Crew, you are spearheading new ideas constantly and with that, you have to have a creative mindset. I am definitely learning how to think outside the box, but at times it can be challenging thinking of things that have not been done before.

What are you most excited about now?

Currently Root Crew is working on a series of workshops to facilitate for the wider community, which is awesome! One of the workshops I am assisting in creating is about the history of the land with an environmental component. This topic can get super science heavy, which is exciting to me, and we are ensuring that it’s something that people who aren’t that big into science would enjoy and find impactful as well!

BIDDING A FOND FAREWELL TO MUNROE STREET FARM

If you were in the Munroe Street area in downtown Lynn in the summertime and smelled basil, your nose would lead you to The Food Project’s farm. In partnership with a generous landowner, we planted and tended fruits, vegetables and flowers on the Munroe Street lot for nine years. Our partner sold the land, and it is currently being developed. Though we miss the Munroe Street Farm (our office is still right up the street), we are grateful for years of incredible memories. We are also really excited to be in conversation with local officials and property owners about new spaces in the downtown area where our youth and neighbors can grow food and build community.
On Saturday afternoons throughout February and March of this year, the kitchen in The Food Project’s Dudley Street office was filled with community members and energetic youth. The smell of freshly baked bread, Caribbean-inspired sauces, and more filled the air as residents of Roxbury, Dorchester, and Mattapan gathered together over their shared love of food at free cooking workshops hosted by The Food Project as part of its “Grow Well, Eat Well, Be Well” initiative.

According to Keely Curliss, Root Crew Supervisor, the workshops are meant to bring community members and youth together around cooking and delicious food: “Through these workshops, we hope to showcase the talent of local community businesses, neighbors, and restaurants and uplift the vibrant food culture already present in the neighborhood.” Local chefs, restaurant owners, and neighbors share recipes from their own cultures. This year’s instructors included Cassandra Campbell and Jackson Renshaw, Food Project alumni and co-founders of Fresh Food Generation, and Nahdra Ra Kiros, owner of Oasis Vegan Veggie Parlor.

Root Crew youth take a leadership role in the planning and execution of these workshops. They are responsible for recruiting chefs, spreading the word, assisting with set-up and clean up, and facilitating a fun and interactive environment for neighbors to enjoy time together over a delicious meal. It’s one of their favorite Root Crew activities, as they see the good things that come from bringing together youth and community through food.
HE DUDLEY STREET NEIGHBORHOOD INITIATIVE (DNSI) is a barrier-breaking, community-based, planning group formed in 1984 to revitalize the Dudley neighborhood after decades of disinvestment, arson, and the proliferation of empty lots. DNSI was the first community organization in the country to win the right of eminent domain. They acquired vacant lots for the Dudley Neighbors Inc. Land Trust and, through that, put a total of 30 acres of land under community control. “The whole intent behind a Community Land Trust model is to allow the community to have a seat at the table and a voice in the conversation over what happens in these sites,” said Tony Hernandez, the director of Dudley Neighbors Incorporated.

The relationship between The Food Project and DNSI spans decades. In 1995, DNSI granted The Food Project the right to farm an empty lot on Langdon Street. In the coming years, The Food Project would add another farm on West Cottage Street and the Dudley Greenhouse. Now that the farms are owned by the Land Trust, they are protected from purchase by developers. “As the pressures of development encroach, I’m so pleased that our Boston farms have moved onto the Dudley Neighborhood Inc. Land Trust,” said Danielle Andrews, who runs the farms and greenhouse in the Dudley neighborhood. “These Boston farms have produced more than half a million pounds of food in our time here. They have provided meaningful work and educational spaces for our youth, staff and volunteers. They are beautiful, open green spaces for our neighbors and a habitat for birds, insects and other creatures.”

The Food Project’s farms and greenhouse provide a space for older adults in the neighborhood — many of whom are immigrants from cultures where growing food is an important part of life — to continue a practice that is so important to them. They also provide a place where children and teenagers can be exposed to how food is grown. “I think it adds to the cultural diversity and richness of the community,” Tony said. “How do you revitalize a neighborhood? You can’t just do it physically by popping a few houses up here and there.”

Shani Fletcher, Development Officer and Grassroots Program Manager at the City of Boston’s Department of Neighborhood Development, said urban farms are beneficial to neighborhoods because they provide residents with access to fresh produce and beautify the space. “The city and the mayor are really happy and proud to have this land in The Food Project’s care,” she said. “We know they’re going to be great stewards for a long time to come.”

As the pressures of development encroach, I’m so pleased that our Boston farms have moved onto the Dudley Neighborhood Inc. Land Trust.

— DANIELLE ANDREWS
The Greenhouse Advisory Committee (GAC) works in collaboration with DSNI and The Food Project staff to ensure that the Dudley Greenhouse operates in accordance with the vision, values, and purpose for which it was intended. Meet this year’s Greenhouse Advisory Committee members and read about their hopes for the Dudley Greenhouse this year.

Why are you excited to be on the Greenhouse Advisory Committee this year?

“I am excited to be on the Greenhouse Advisory Committee because we have so many new Greenhouse Growers and returning Greenhouse Growers, and I look forward to helping to implement their ideas.” — ROBIN SAUNDERS

“I am so excited to be on the Greenhouse Advisory Committee and grateful to have been elected. The Dudley Greenhouse is such an asset to our community because it allows us to connect with, nourish, and educate ourselves and each other.” — CHAVELLA LEE

“I am honored to have an opportunity to be a part of the local leadership in green spaces and figuring out how to best serve the community as they learn and enjoy growing both produce and positive relationships together.” — JASMINE MAYS

What are your hopes for the greenhouse community moving forward?

“I’m interested in educational programs for all Greenhouse growers and raising our growing knowledge to higher levels.” — FULANI HAYNES

“I hope that we can continue to inform community residents as to the fact we are here, what we do, and how they can be a part of it.” — DOROTHY JOHNSON

The Greenhouse Advisory Committee: Robin Saunders, Chavella Lee, Dorothy Johnson, Fulani Haynes, Jasmine Mays (not pictured)
Now, more than ever, young people are at the core of our work. Their service to their communities and the world beyond highlights the relevance of our mission and the responsibility we all have to create change that leads to a better food system and a better world. You make this critical work happen through your financial support. Changing food systems takes time and effort and the overarching goal is crucial to every community. Your support means that you join with The Food Project to make access to healthy, affordable food a priority for all of us. Thank you.

**STATEMENT OF ACTIVITY**

**2019 Fiscal Year**

**REVENUE**

- Donations $2,816,114
- Food Sales 281,221
- Investments 51,540
- Event Tickets, Raffles & Auctions 42,166
- Programs & Training Material 59,184
- **TOTAL REVENUE** $3,250,225

**EXPENSES**

- Youth Development 1,644,925
- Suburban Farming 564,644
- Urban Farming & Community Agriculture 605,937
- Volunteer & Outreach 188,198
- Food Access 107,055
- **TOTAL EXPENSES** $3,110,759

Data is represented on an accrual basis and based on audited financial statements. Indirect costs are allocated to program areas based on the size of each program.

**REVENUE BY SOURCE**

- Donations 86%
- Food Sales 9%
- Investment 2%
- Event Tickets, Raffles & Auctions 1%
- Programs & Training 1%

**EXPENSES BY CATEGORY**

- Youth Development 53%
- Suburban Farming 19%
- Urban Farming & Community Agriculture 18%
- Volunteer & Outreach 4%
- Food Access 6%

**DONATIONS BY SOURCE**

- Individuals 54%
- Private Foundations 13%
- Special Events 13%
- Family Foundations 13%
- Corporations 7%
- Other Organizations 7%
- Government 4%
- Corporations 7%
- Other Organizations 7%
- Government 4%
Donor Support

Thank you for keeping us growing strong. We appreciate each and every donor who supported us during the 2019 fiscal year, from October 1, 2018 to September 30, 2019. You make us grow better, deepen our roots, and catalyze positive change in our communities.

CORPORATE & FOUNDATION GIVING

Thank you to the foundations, corporations, and organizations who made our work possible this year.

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SERVE & GROW

We are appreciative of the organizations that brought groups of
volunteers to work on our farms during the year. Your work
on the farms, which included planting, weeding, and
harvesting, contributed immensely to the productivity of
the farms.

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Alumni support is meaningful to us. We are
thankful for all of the alumni who support the young
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We gratefully acknowledge the support from parents. Your support is an investment in, and an endorsement of, the transformative power of The Food Project’s youth experience.

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Donations of goods and services helped support special projects and general operations throughout the year. We are thankful for all of the individuals and establishments who made these generous contributions and helped us grow.

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Anthony Bourdain
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Created in 2015, The Lenore Travis Memorial Fund has supported this annual retreat for youth leaders across the organization since 2016. Thanks to all of you who gave generously in honor of Lenore—a beloved friend and trustee of The Food Project and devoted advocate for our youth—the retreat is funded through 2020. We are thrilled to be able to offer this incredible opportunity for many young people to come.

To make a gift or learn more about the fund, visit: csa.thefoodproject.org/ltmf
THE FOOD PROJECT MISSION
The Food Project’s mission is to create a thoughtful and productive community of youth and adults from diverse backgrounds who work together to build a sustainable food system. Our community produces healthy food for residents of the city and suburbs, provides youth leadership opportunities, and inspires and supports others to create change in their own communities.

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